



**USA/USMC Counterinsurgency Center**  
**U.S. Army Security Force Assistance Proponent**

**SITREP**  
**5 August 2010**



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**Director's Comments:**

On 1 August General Petraeus issued "COMISAF's Counterinsurgency Guidance" for all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Civilians of NATO ISAF and US Forces-Afghanistan. The guidance reflects doctrinal fundamentals found in FM 3-24, Counterinsurgency, and also many years of on the ground experience executing COIN operations in both Afghanistan and Iraq. [See our blog for more information and to get a copy of the guidance.](#) We would like to hear your impressions regarding the potential challenges implementing this, particularly at battalion level and below.

A joint working group has identified key COIN collective tasks in support of the Secretary of Defense Memorandum (24MAY10) to establish joint, theater-specific (Afghanistan/Pakistan region) COIN qualification standards for military and civilian personnel. ISAF will review the results of the workgroup's effort at the early August COIN Shura in Kabul and after any modifications, will forward to OSD for approval. [You can view the draft here at the ISAF public site.](#) All of these products are aimed at improving the quality of COIN training and increasing soldier and unit preparedness for operational assignments in the Afghanistan AOR.

Recommend you also pick up Autumn 2010 edition of [Security Challenges](#) journal which has a number of highly relevant articles about the adaptation of western armies to counterinsurgency operations. Included is the British experience in Iraq, written by Dr. Dan Marston, Ike Skelton Chair in Counterinsurgency at the Command and General Staff College. See also COIN Center article about US COIN doctrinal adaptations. [Would appreciate your comments on our blog site.](#)

The Army continues to build partner capacity with allies and friends and the CSA and CG, 3<sup>rd</sup> Army hosted the ARCENT Land Forces Symposium 2010, 1-4 Aug in Columbus, GA. Senior Army leaders from 13 countries in CENTCOM's AOR participated in the event which included panels on COIN, Consequence Management, and Security Cooperation. Read more in the SITREP below and also on the [ARCENT public web site.](#)

As always, we solicit your active participation on our blog as well as research papers for publication in our on-line magazine, *The Colloquium*.

Thanks for your efforts in support of our troops,

Colonel Dan Roper

## MONTHLY COIN/SFA ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### PROPONENCY

- **Afghanistan COIN Training Standards Workshop, 19-23 Jul:** COIN Center participated in workshop with JCISFA, JFCOM, CENTCOM, USMC, and CGSC COIN Chair. Purpose was to support Secretary of Defense Memorandum (24MAY10) to establish joint, theater-specific (Afghanistan/Pakistan region) COIN qualification standards for military and civilian personnel. Participants reviewed theater-specific COIN training tasks and standards, using NATO ISAF (COIN) Mission Specific Training Guidelines (MSTG) (15JUN10) as baseline document. Result of workshop yielded eight COIN mission essential tasks:

- Conduct Distributed Operations
- Partner with Afghan National Security Forces
- Create Conditions for Local and District Stability
- Conduct Information Operations
- Conduct Detainee Operations
- Develop an Adaptive Learning Organization
- Conduct Relief in Place
- Understand the Operational Environment

Next Steps: ISAF will review tasks at COIN Shura (Kabul, 8-9 Aug). After review, JCISFA will send to Office of the Secretary of Defense for promulgation to the services.

### LEADER DEVELOPMENT

- **COIN Center Briefing to ILE A400 SOF Students, Importance of Cultural Intelligence, 30 Jul:** Briefing conducted by COIN Branch Chief and emphasized need to consider cultural aspects to gain understanding of operational environment. Discussion included framework and elements of culture and historical and contemporary examples with respect to counterinsurgency operations. Instruction provided as part on-going support to CGSC.
- **CALL Theater Observation Detachment COIN Orientation, 1, 22, 29 Jul:** COIN Center provided CALL (TOD) personnel with familiarization briefing which included COIN Center mission, COIN principles, US COIN/SO/SFA doctrine overview, and availability of COIN instructional products on [coin.army.mil](http://coin.army.mil) website. This is a recurring COIN Center requirement.

### DOCTRINE & TRAINING SUPPORT

- **COIN Center Participation in BCTP Battle Command Seminar (COIN), 1-25 ID, Ft. Wainwright, AK, 19-22 Jul:** Purpose was to understand BCTP presentation of COIN and SFA to deploying unit in support of CAC Operational

Planning Team. COIN Center continues to support CG, CAC's Tiger Team and refine the CAC COIN Action Plan to reflect anticipated requirement of executing BCT COIN Seminars in APR 11.

- **COIN Workshop for Human Terrain System (HTS), 1 Jul:** COIN Center instructed 31 members of July trainee class in COIN (basics/principles and application tools). Briefings and discussions included fundamentals of insurgency, operational environment, counterinsurgency, power structures, cultural understanding, COMISAF guidance and OEF lessons learned. This is a continuing COIN Center engagement. [See COIN training product here](#) (to include audio/graphic files).

## **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

- **Article published by COIN Center in Australian journal, Security Challenges, Autumn 2010:** The Rediscovery of Doctrine: The US Army and Counterinsurgency. United States military efforts to topple Saddam Hussein and liberate Iraq from oppression began on 17 March 2003 and concluded less than thirty days later. During the following summer, however, an insurgency began to grow—an event which the US Army was unprepared to counter. Article addresses the reasons for that lack of preparedness, what the Army did to recover from its ineffective response, and the lessons that the US Army and US military at large must learn from this experience. [Click here for article.](#)
- **COMISAF Campaign Assessment Brief, Jun 10.** Provides an operational update of the campaign plan and explains the ISAF assessment process. [Get copy at this link.](#)
- **COIN Common Sense, July 2010 Issue,** Neutralizing Malign Influences: Corruption; Narcotics; Insurgent Propaganda, Insurgent Justice. ISAF Publication. [Copy available here.](#)

## **STRATCOM & OUTREACH**

- **ARCENT Land Forces Symposium 2010, 1-4 Aug.** COIN Center Director presented "U.S. Approach to Counterinsurgency" to ARCENT Land Forces Symposium 2010 in Columbus, GA in order to support annual forum that brings together senior army leaders from CENTCOM AOR to discuss common challenges, exchange views, & build relationships to foster regional security cooperation. Symposium theme: "Multilateral Approaches to Regional Challenges." Three panels focused on:
  - Consequence Management & Critical Infrastructure Protection (identify ways in which land forces may respond to natural or man-made disasters).
  - Counterinsurgency (examine national & regional initiatives to mitigate & combat extremism & internal threats to national security).

- Security Cooperation Programs (explore security cooperation efforts; develop standards & core competencies that enable successful multilateral operations & enhance interoperability).

Senior Army leaders from 13 countries in CENTCOM AOR participated in event co-hosted by CSA & LTG Webster, 3A CDR. FORSCOM Cdr also participated. Third Army identified opportunity for militaries in AOR to meet & identify training needs, equipment & other requirements while discussing future concepts necessary to address 21st Century challenges (dialogue intended to frame future theater security cooperation events IAW theater engagement plan).

- **COIN Center Brownbag Webcast: Beyond the Basics: Preparing Leaders and Soldiers for Afghanistan, 22 Jul:** Professional development session presented by MAJ Nathan Springer provided valuable insight into application of COIN principles for small unit leaders and soldiers. Discussion included importance of developing personal relationship through spheres of influence with soldiers, team leaders, squad leaders, etc and techniques for purposefully generating and maintaining relationships that support unit COIN objectives. Presentation also highlighted unit level support of lines of effort of Governance, Development, and Partnership with Afghan National Security Forces. Participants included 162<sup>nd</sup> Inf Bde, 173rd ABCT (G3), 2nd Bde 1ID (FECC), NTC (Ops), USAF IW Ctr, Human Terrain System (NTC), BCTP (Ops Grp B), CAC-T (CTD), CGSC (DJIMO), and others.
- **Indonesia – U.S. Army Staff Talks, Fort Meyer, VA, 13–15 Jul:** COIN Center Director led Counterinsurgency Working Group at Staff Talks. This was first ever army-to-army staff talks with Indonesia -- world's largest Muslim nation. Indonesian delegation led by MG Soetanto, Assistant for Operations to Army Chief of Staff, and BG Chasib, Indonesian Defense Attaché; US delegation led by BG Donnelly, Deputy Dir, DAMO-SS. Purpose of Staff talks was to support Army, PACOM, & USARPAC security cooperation objectives:
  - a. Reaffirm & sustain relations with Indonesian Army, with emphasis on Building Partner Capacity.
  - b. Identify & explore areas for increased cooperation in support of ongoing operations.
  - c. Share information on issues affecting interoperability.
  - d. Share information on operational and transformational challenges that influence potential coalition requirements.

Counterinsurgency workgroup, supported by CGSC DJIMO, examined military role in counterinsurgency and differences in U.S. and Indonesian approaches to COIN. Agreed-to-Actions (ATAs) approved by delegation leads involve low-resource initial steps to be implemented over next 12-18 months that increase mutual understanding. CAC-specific actions include addition of Indonesian Army to US Army COIN Center SITREP distribution, invitation to future COIN

Symposiums, and inclusion of Indonesian Army in COIN Center facilitated webcasts to exchange insights on COIN best practices and instructional material.

Next steps: COIN Center receive HQDA G3/5/7 memorandum of agreed-to-actions (includes above) and continue cooperative efforts with Indonesian army.

- **NTM-A/CSTC-A briefing, 7 Jul:** COL Mark Edmunds provided information brief on 180 day internal review of training. Briefing included mission, functions, and organization of NTM-A/CSTC-A, actual and objective growth of ANSF, and challenges to overcome. Next step: COIN Center continues coordination efforts with CSTC-A, CTC-A and ISAF.
- **COL (Aus) Hutcheson, Director of Studies (Land) Australian Command and Staff College, 29 Jun:** COIN Center Director provided briefing on COIN Center initiatives and engagements, with focus on prior work with Australian Army. Discussion also included US COIN, SO, and SFA doctrine and application to current operations in Afghanistan. Next steps: continued information sharing of COIN insights and lessons for inputs to leader development and training programs.

### **COIN/SO/SFA Community Events**

4-5 Aug	<a href="#">National Security Professionals Symposium:</a> Forming an Interagency Community, National Defense University, Wash DC
15-19 Aug	<a href="#">Building Capacities for Cross-Cultural Communication Conference,</a> Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies, Naval Postgraduate School, Wash DC
24-25 Aug	<a href="#">Economic Security: Neglected Dimension of National Security?</a> Conference, National Defense University, Wash DC
25 Aug	<a href="#">Mission Command Center of Excellence Symposium,</a> Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth
26 Aug	COIN Monthly Integration Meeting webcast
30 Aug	<a href="#">New Armies From Old: Integrating Competing Military Forces after Civil Wars, Conference,</a> Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Center and Rutgers University, Carlisle Barracks
16-17 Sep	<a href="#">Violent Armed Groups Symposium,</a> Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College and University of Pennsylvania, Pittsburg
26-28 Oct	<a href="#">Stability Operations Training and Education Workshop,</a> PKSOI, Landsdowne, VA
1-4 Nov	<a href="#">Working in the Same Space Workshop</a> (to increase JIIM working effectiveness), Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies, Monterrey, CA

\* Request all COIN/SO/SFA Integration Meeting organizations share next 60 days of upcoming events of interest to the community to [coin@conus.army.mil](mailto:coin@conus.army.mil).

*Questions or Comments - contact us at:*

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